

Stoneham Disability Committee Minutes
May 24, 2016

Meeting brought to order at 5 PM

Attendance: Susan (Sue) Coughlin, Kathleen (Kathy) Balestrier, William (Bill) Cameron, Lorna Saulnier

Guests: Howard (Howie) Porter, Ana Porter, Maria Sagarino (Town Clerk)

Susan presented Howard Porter with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the Committee. We recognize Howie for his long time commitment to bringing awareness about disabilities and the need for access to our community.

The Committee was contacted by a citizen stating they would have liked to participate in Town meeting but couldn't because of a disability. Sue contacted a few agencies/organizations to see what the options are and see what we could do. Sue mentioned that person was to contact George Manfra to see if the personal listening device (PLD) which is already in town hall would be a suitable accommodation. Sue thought he might show up at the Selectmen meeting but wasn't sure as the last communication was on Facebook message.

Sue mentioned speaking with Cheryl Noble about attending CAM training. Sue will send info by email. She asked MOD if a professional can only attend 1 day of training, what would be the preferred day? This information was conveyed to her. She has not replied to the email as of this time. Parking/signage at the schools was also mentioned.

Sue had a brief conversation with the MOD about schools. School property is under the federal, state and local laws and regulations, the actual education falls under the Department of Education. Dave Ragucci had previously stated that it was all under Department of Education. MOD also informed Sue that if someone from the state had "passed inspection" it would only be from their office and it was stated that they knew of no one inspecting or passing the middle school.

The Committee had a brief discussion about the success in conveying our concerns about accessibility, or lack thereof, to the BOS and the town. Sue presented and addressed BOS and audience member questions and concerns. Sue requested the fines be raised to \$200 and provided date of

neighboring cities and towns. Sue answered a question about how many fines were given. Sue stated we did not have data for 2015 at this time and did not specifically know why the downward trend. Please see presentation and BOS minutes.

A Certificate was also presented to Maria Sagarino for her dedication in assisting the people with disabilities in our community as well as her assistance with our Committee.

Maria Sagarino came to speak about accessibility; more about parking and fines. Maria had contacted Sue this morning via email and a later phone call was made. She shed some light on why some of the fines were waved because of improper signage. Maria made some suggestions and we spoke about moving the space on Main Street in front of the Post Office to a more suitable place. Maria called Robert (Bob) Grover of the DPW to discuss the law and suggestions. Sue stated that she had mentioned this in the past but nothing had been done. Sue will draft a letter to Mr. Grover immediately to address these issues before the painters come with 10 days. Kathy offered to review it.

Sue asked Bill to reach out to the Wakefield Commission on Disability folks for possible dates to meet in July.

PR- A brief article about our Committee and the survey appeared in both the Sun and Independent. We are unaware of any new surveys being done or mailed in. It was suggested utilizing churches and food pantries. Kathy will contact folks at St Pats. Sue will contact BOH/food pantrys. Another suggestion was going to some of the assisted living centers/rehabs/nursing facilities. Also maybe placing or going to Boys & Girls club.